

SHORE

the Massachusetts HMIS

JANUARY 2006

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INTRODUCING SHORE

DTA announces SHORE (Statewide Homeless Operations and Research Environment), the new name of the Massachusetts Homeless Management Information System.

Located on the EOHHS Virtual Gateway, SHORE will enable us

to access better and more timely information on the needs of homeless individuals and

families in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. By identifying service gaps, SHORE



will allow for more effective allocation of resources and prevent duplication.

SHORE will be offered free of charge to every homeless services provider and continuum of care in the state. Deployment should be completed by Spring 2006.

**Massachusetts Department of
Transitional Assistance Mission
Statement:**

To serve the Commonwealth's most vulnerable families and individuals with dignity and respect, ensuring those eligible for our services have access to those services in an accurate, timely, and culturally sensitive manner, and in a way that promotes clients' independence and long-term self-sufficiency.

SHORE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS

The SHORE Steering Committee held their first meeting on Wednesday, October 26th. Attendance was impressive, with representation from across the Commonwealth.

Attendees were asked to volunteer to participate in subcommittees in contributory, membership and chairing capacities as well as to notify others who might be interested in participating.

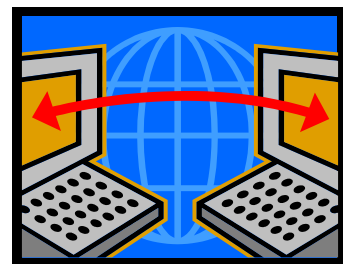
The mandate from Congress to the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to generate unduplicated counts of clients served by homeless assistance programs has created a variety of approaches across the nation. DTA cooperated with providers to develop SHORE in hopes of not

only addressing these requirements in the short term, but of addressing the future needs and requirements of homeless services providers.

HUD's mandate resulted in partnerships among diverse organizations all focused on ending homelessness. Some had previously maintained HMIS programs of their own, and some continue to do so. DTA recognizes their important contribution to this emerging effort and so is working with the Steering Committee and these organizations to integrate those systems with SHORE.

DTA's goal for the SHORE Steering Committee is to have an ongoing dialogue with providers throughout the Commonwealth -- regardless of whether they are using SHORE

to meet their data collection needs. This exchange of ideas will lead to an HMIS that not only meets the needs of DTA and its providers, but exceeds them. We therefore hope for the fullest possible participation over the years to come.



SHORE enables better tracking of services and service gaps

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18 at 2 pm in the China Trade Building, 2 Boylston Street, Boston.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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MEMBERS NEEDED FOR SHORE SUBCOMMITTEES

The SHORE Steering Committee will have several subcommittees reporting to it. These subcommittees are integral to the development and maintenance of the system and will require some time and effort on the part of members. Proposed subcommittees include:

- Policy and Procedures (for the Steering Committee);
- System Development/Enhancements/User Workgroup;
- Report Development and Data Quality;
- Data Sharing; and
- Protection of Sensitive Data

The Steering Committee requests ideas for additional subcommittees.

If anyone wishes to participate in a subcommittee, or wishes to recommend a topic area for a subcommittee, please contact HMIS Manager Deb Connolly at 617-348-5624 or at debra.connolly@state.ma.us



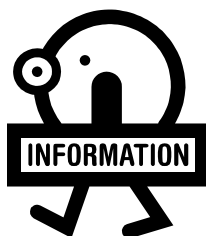
SHORE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

In each newsletter, we will include some of the most frequently asked questions about SHORE. If you have a question, feel free to contact us, and we will lead you in the right direction.

Question: Who has to use SHORE?

Answer: All HUD-funded homeless service providers must use a homeless information management system. All DTA-funded providers, in addition to those providers who receive HUD funds through the Balance of State Continuum of Care, must provide data to SHORE, either through uploading or through using the SHORE web-based application (this includes those DTA-distributed Emergency Shelter Grant funds and Shelter Plus Care (S+C) programs). No one is required to use the SHORE web-based application unless they are otherwise unable to provide DTA with their data in a certified format.

Question: Who on my staff needs to be trained for SHORE?



Answer: Anyone who is charged with entry of client data into SHORE. This can be a designated data entry person or intake staff and case managers, as well as supervisors.

Question: Can I use SHORE for a program that is not funded by HUD or DTA?

Answer: Yes! DTA encourages all providers across the Commonwealth to utilize SHORE for as many programs as they have resources and desire. The more homeless services that are accounted for using SHORE, the closer we can all come to a regional, statewide, and eventually nationwide unduplicated count. If SHORE cannot currently be configured to a specific program need, DTA welcomes those comments through both direct contact with the SHORE deployment team and through the statewide Steering Committee, which meets on a regular basis throughout the year.

“DTA encourages all providers across the Commonwealth to utilize SHORE for as many programs as they have resources and desire.”

HMIS STEERING COMMITTEE DATES & INFORMATION

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at 2:00 pm

Location: China Trade Building, 2 Boylston Street, Boston

Take the Orange Line to Chinatown or the Green Line to Boylston Street



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON:

Legal Briefings & Training:

Gail Law

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Operations & Conversion:

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SHORE SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- There are 20 organizations representing approximately 121 programs, as well as 244 individuals currently using SHORE
- In all, there are 235 organizations statewide that have been identified as potential SHORE users

CONTINUUM OF CARE/ESG CORNER



DTA looks forward to welcoming you to the table in an expanded role.

Elaine Frawley has recently joined Housing and Homeless Services as the new DTA lead for the Balance of State Continuum of Care. DTA is moving into exciting new directions, and would like each Continuum to be a key player. To solidify our

lines of communication across Continua, we are planning a Statewide CoC meeting for February 27, 2006. The meeting is scheduled at the University of Massachusetts Medical School Amphitheater in Worcester from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

We will be discussing the changes we are planning, and we will have guests from the data group of the Statewide Interagency Council on Chronic Homelessness chaired by Lieutenant Governor Healy. If you can bring the information from your Homeless Census Count, they can compile and share it across Continua.

Elaine is looking forward to meeting you, and we all look forward to welcoming you to the table in an expanded role. Please feel free to contact Elaine in the meantime at 617-348-5936 or elaine.frawley@state.ma.us.

STATEWIDE
HOMELESS
OPERATIONS AND
RESEARCH
ENVIRONMENT